



GREAT BARRINGTON

Berkshire County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

Located in the southwestern corner of Massachusetts, Great Barrington is a quintessential rural town with one foot in its rich history, and one foot firmly planted in the future. In its role as the commercial hub of the southern Berkshires, Great Barrington has successfully maintained its small town charm and character, even as it has grown to meet the business, educational, shopping, entertainment, and recreational needs of residents and visitors in the tri-state region it shares with eastern New York and northwestern Connecticut.

Tourism is the prime industry in the Great Barrington area, stimulated by an appealing mix of outdoor recreational opportunities; first rate cultural offerings; local artisans and crafters; and a healthy complement of service oriented restaurants, B&B's, and small inns. Skiing, fall foliage, summer culture, and the beauty of a Berkshire spring, carry tourism throughout the four seasons.

Increasingly, second-home owners and transplants from large, metropolitan areas are discovering what longtime residents have known for many years; Great Barrington is a great community to raise a family, run a business, and enjoy the pleasures of small town living.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Southwestern Massachusetts, bordered by Egremont and Alford on the west; Lee, West Stockbridge, and Stockbridge on the north; Tyringham and Monterey on the east; New Marlborough on the southeast; and Sheffield on the south. Great Barrington is about 20 miles south of Pittsfield, 47 miles west of Springfield, 135 miles west of Boston, and 125 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 45.70 sq. miles

Land Area: 45.19 sq. miles

Population: 7,725

Density: 171 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Great Barrington Station)

Normal temperature in January.....20.1°F

Normal temperature in July.....68.1°F

Normal annual precipitation.....44.8"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Great Barrington, Egremont, Stockbridge, State Line, East Lee

Regional Planning Agency

Berkshire County

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 528-1619

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Manager

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1761

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	3,898		
Democrats	1,204	30.9	%
Republicans	587	15.1	%
Other parties	4	0.1	%
Unenrolled Voters	2,103	54.0	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Great Barrington town, Berkshire County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	7,527	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	7,527	100.0
Male.....	3,506	46.6	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	156	2.1
Female.....	4,021	53.4	Mexican.....	33	0.4
Under 5 years.....	328	4.4	Puerto Rican.....	23	0.3
5 to 9 years.....	411	5.5	Cuban.....	5	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	486	6.5	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	95	1.3
15 to 19 years.....	750	10.0	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	7,371	97.9
20 to 24 years.....	399	5.3	White alone.....	7,034	93.5
25 to 34 years.....	710	9.4	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	1,067	14.0	Total population.....	7,527	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	1,249	16.6	In households.....	6,862	91.2
55 to 59 years.....	438	5.8	Householder.....	3,008	40.0
60 to 64 years.....	286	3.8	Spouse.....	1,377	18.3
65 to 74 years.....	607	8.1	Child.....	1,838	24.4
75 to 84 years.....	546	7.3	Own child under 18 years.....	1,426	18.9
85 years and over.....	260	3.5	Other relatives.....	233	3.1
Median age (years).....	41.8	(X)	Under 18 years.....	65	0.9
18 years and over.....	5,828	77.4	Nonrelatives.....	406	5.4
Male.....	2,658	35.3	Unmarried partner.....	186	2.5
Female.....	3,170	42.1	In group quarters.....	665	8.8
21 years and over.....	5,462	72.6	Institutionalized population.....	313	4.2
62 years and over.....	1,563	20.8	Noninstitutionalized population.....	352	4.7
65 years and over.....	1,413	18.8	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	526	7.0	Total households.....	3,008	100.0
Female.....	887	11.8	Family households (families).....	1,826	60.7
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	820	27.3
One race.....	7,449	99.0	Married-couple family.....	1,377	45.8
White.....	7,131	94.7	With own children under 18 years.....	559	18.6
Black or African American.....	157	2.1	Female householder, no husband present.....	346	11.5
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	12	0.2	With own children under 18 years.....	207	6.9
Asian.....	94	1.2	Nonfamily households.....	1,182	39.3
Asian Indian.....	27	0.4	Householder living alone.....	990	32.6
Chinese.....	25	0.3	Householder 65 years and over.....	399	13.3
Filipino.....	3	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	877	29.2
Japanese.....	14	0.2	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	854	28.4
Korean.....	10	0.1	Average household size.....	2.28	(X)
Vietnamese.....	2	-	Average family size.....	2.89	(X)
Other Asian ¹	13	0.2	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	2	-	Total housing units.....	3,352	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	3,008	89.7
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	1	-	Vacant housing units.....	344	10.3
Samoan.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	1	-	occasional use.....	236	7.0
Some other race.....	53	0.7	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.7	(X)
Two or more races.....	78	1.0	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	3.4	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	3,008	100.0
White.....	7,197	95.6	Owner-occupied housing units.....	1,859	61.8
Black or African American.....	188	2.5	Renter-occupied housing units.....	1,149	38.2
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	27	0.4	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.53	(X)
Asian.....	129	1.7	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.88	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	7	0.1			
Some other race.....	66	0.9			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	88
Conventional Federal:	0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	0
Federal (Section 8):	0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Great Barrington is situated in Berkshire County, a region of hills and low mountains that widen to create the Berkshire Valley in the south. The major cities and towns are linked together by U.S. Route 7. North Adams and Pittsfield are major points of entry for rail freight into Massachusetts, and the region has several commercial airports. Public roads and highways meet the requirements of modern transportation.

Major Highways

Principal highways are U.S. Route 7, which runs N-S through the Berkshires, and State Routes 23, 41, 71, and 183.

Rail

Freight rail service is available from the Housatonic Railroad, which runs through the town and has a public delivery track in neighboring Sheffield. Contact number: (203) 824-0850

Bus

Great Barrington is a member of the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority (BRTA), which provides fixed route service to Lee, Lenox, Stockbridge, and Pittsfield. User side paratransit services are available for the elderly and disabled. Bonanza Bus Lines, Inc. provides service from Great Barrington to Albany, and New York City, NY, Vermont and Connecticut.

Other

The Great Barrington Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility, is located 2 miles W of the city. It has a 2,579' x 50' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Albert Schweitzer Center

50 Hurlburt Road

(413) 528-3124

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

Fairview Hospital

Long Term Care

Fairview Manor Ext. Care Ctr.
Gt. Barrington Healthcare N.H
Timberlyn Heights Nursing Home
Willowood Nsg Ventilator
Willowood Nurs. & Ret. Fac.

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.